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## BUILDING CANADA'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURE BRAND IN THE WORLD

Canada's agriculture and food industry feeds the world safe, healthy food that is well-respected by international trading partners. Canada is the world's fourth-largest exporter in the agriculture and seafood trade, and is internationally recognized for high-quality products.

### Saskatchewan's Contribution

The Central Lowlands are the heart of the province with the most prosperous farms and concentrated population. On the whole, Saskatchewan is an agricultural leader in Canada and has the most agriculturally productive land. The average farm size is about 445 hectares.

Saskatchewan's continental climate, with sultry summers and intensely cold winters, does not deter agriculture. The drier southwest is home to significant cattle ranching that puts Saskatchewan second to Alberta in cattle production in Canada.

Saskatchewan exports \$9.67-billion worth of agri-food product to international markets.

### Agri-Food

Saskatchewan is Canada's leading producer of wheat, which is the province's number-one export. About one-quarter of the province's export sales arise from hard red spring wheat and to a much lesser extent winter wheat, combined.

Hard red spring wheat is used for bread making because its high gluten content helps the dough to rise and the baked bread to hold its shape. Currently, spring wheat acreage is about 10 times greater than winter wheat, but a coming increase in winter wheat production is foreseen. The kernels are easily ground to flour for cakes and pastries. Ethanol

and livestock markets appreciate winter wheat's high starch content.

As the number two export, durum wheat accounts for 15.8 per cent of exports. According to the Canadian Wheat Board, quality Canadian durum is exported to more than 40 countries. Italian pasta makers are among the top buyers. For valued customers in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, it is used for couscous, a staple dish. Buyers trust Canadian durum for its consistently high quality and because of Canada's superior marketing and grain handling systems.

In third spot is canola seed (also called rape/colza seed) for oil extraction, which represents 14.9 per cent of exports. Refined colza oil, among many applications, is an edible oil used in margarine and an additive in mineral oil, or as a raw material for refining bio diesel.

### Did you know

Innovation is not new to Saskatchewan. Seager Wheeler (1868-1961), the Wheat Wizard of Rosthern, was an advocate for scientific agriculture. Wheeler experimented with seed selection and developed three strains of wheat, two of barley and one of oats. His authoritative study of dry-land farming, *Profitable Grain Growing*, published in 1919, was a best-seller.





